



Conservation Successes – March 2004

Swimming Pool Reopens at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Complex

New pool and bathhouse creates excitement amongst area youth

Tampa, FL (March 15, 2004) – Excited school children and residents who live and play in the neighborhood surrounding the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Complex joined Mayor Pam Ioria, officials from the city's Park and Recreation Department, lifeguards, and National Park Service representatives for the dedication ceremony of the rehabilitated Martin Luther King, Jr. Pool.



The rehabilitation project reopened the swimming pool to a very proud community that has anticipated the reopening of the pool for the past year. The project, which totaled \$629,681, received an Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) grant in the amount of \$440,777 in 2001 to fund the demolition and replacement of a deteriorated 1950's bathhouse. The new bathhouse will better accommodate more swimmers as well as those with diverse abilities. Other work completed during the rehabilitation included the replacement of the swimming pool itself. The UPARR Program is proud to have been a partner in this project along with the City of Tampa in restoring this swimming pool facility within this community. For more information, please contact Ervin Dunham, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at ervin_dunham@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

Surplus FAA Air Navigation Facility Becomes Regional Park

Suburban Fort Worth community obtains for first multi-use county park

Granbury, TX (January 20, 2004) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred at no cost 73.76 acres to Hood County, Texas, for public park and recreation use. Located in the far southwest suburbs of Fort Worth, this property will become Hood County's first multi-purpose regional park.

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Recreation Assistance (HRA) -
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -

Formerly acquired by the Federal Aviation Agency for a VORTAC air navigation facility, the property is valued at over \$258,000. Hood County will develop walking, hiking, and nature trails, horseback riding trails, picnicking and primitive camping sites, along with soccer fields, softball and football fields. A grassy area will be designated for special events and festivals.

The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.



Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Conservation Strategy

High View, WV (March 2003) - Recently the Cacapon and Lost River Land Trust purchased the first agricultural conservation easement in West Virginia, permanently preserving the nucleus of a valuable family-owned farm. Between 2001 and 2003, the Trust has successfully negotiated conservation easements on more than 6500 acres of land!



Realizing the need to protect ecologically important lands, the *Healing Waters* Retreat was initiated to implement a strategic, proactive approach for land conservation. At the request of the Land Trust, RTCA staff assisted with the development of the Land Trust's comprehensive watershed-wide conservation program. Following the Retreat, West Virginia University and Canaan Valley Institute developed a decision support system that provides the sophisticated capabilities of spatial analysis in a user-friendly application. This decision system enables the Land Trust staff to identify specific parcels that, if protected, would establish critical linkages between fragmented lands.

Photo: An important component of a family farm was recently protected by the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement held by the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust. George Washington National Forest abuts the farm. This tract of land appears on the lower left (red parcel) of the parcel map adjoining the National Forest.

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Located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, the Cacapon and Lost River is a major tributary to the Potomac River characterized by forests, high quality streams and traditional family farms. However, due to the region's close proximity to the rapidly suburbanizing Washington, DC metropolitan area and lack of effective local land use planning, the Cacapon and Lost River watershed is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of unplanned future growth. Since the late 1980's, the Cacapon and Lost River Land Trust has functioned as a traditional land trust reacting to landowner requests by protecting isolated parcels of questionable resource value. For more information, please contact Wink Hastings, Landscape Architect, at whastings@chesapeakebay.net or 410-267-5787.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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